

Remarks

Applicants' representative thanks Examiner McCloud for the indication of allowable subject matter. In the office action dated December 17, 2003 the Examiner rejected claims 1, 14, 15, 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,525,881 to Desrus (hereinafter Desrus), as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) claims 6 and 21 over Desrus in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,343,970 to Severinsky (hereinafter Severinsky), claims 7 and 22 over Desrus and Severinsky in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,334,160 to McCarty (hereinafter McCarty), and claims 12 and 25 under over Desrus in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,898,282 to Drozd et al. (herein after Drozd). Claims 2-5, 8-10, 13, 16-20, 23, 24 and 26-28 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, Applicants' representative amends claims 1, 3-5, 14 and 17-20, cancels claims 2, 15 and 16, and adds new claims 31-37. Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 14 can be found, for example, in now canceled claims 2, and 15 and 16, respectively. Support for new claims 31-37 can be found, for example, on Figure 2 and in the specification, on page 6, para. 0023 through page 7, para 27. Claims 3-5 and 17-20 have been amended for consistency. As such, no new matter has been added.

With respect to the Examiner's rejections, the Examiner is invited to consider the following remarks.

Claims 11, 29 and 30 were indicated as rejected in the Office Action Summary. However, no rejection of claims 11, 29 and 30 was provided in the Detailed Action. Further, claim 11 provides limitations similar to the limitations of claim 24 which is indicated as including allowable subject matter, and claims 29 and 30 provide limitations similar to the limitations of claims 2 and 16 which are indicated as including allowable subject matter. As such, claims 11, 29 and 30 are also believed to be allowable.

Regarding the rejection of independent claims 1 and 14, the independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to provide what is believed to be the allowable subject matter of now canceled dependent claims 2 and 16 and any intervening claims.

Regarding claims which depend from the independent claims, Applicants contend that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons that the independent claims are patentable. Moreover, Applicants contend these claims recite further limitations, in addition to the limitations of the independent claims, which render these claims additionally patentable.

Consequently, in view of the above and in the absence of better art, Applicants' representative respectfully submits the application is in condition for allowance which allowance is respectfully requested. Please charge the fee of \$110 for the Petition for a one (1) month extension to reply, the fee of \$86 for one additional independent claim, and the fee of \$72 for four additional claims for a total of \$268, and any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to Ford Global Technologies, LLC Deposit Account No.06-1510.

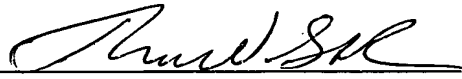
The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to discuss prompt resolution of any remaining issues necessary to place this case in condition for allowance.

S/N: 10/065,007
Reply to Office Action of December 17, 2003

Atty Dkt No. FMC 1754 PUS (81046237)

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 14, 2004

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